

The Availability of Contract Reports

As part of its evaluation function, the Social Security Administration's Office of Policy contracts for extramural evaluations. The reports from those contracts will be released and posted on the Office of Policy's Web site. The following reports are now available at <www.ssa.gov/policy/policyareas/evaluation>.

Evaluation of 1996 Welfare Reform for Drug Addicts and Alcoholics (DA&A)

In March 1996, Congress restricted access to disability benefits in Title II and Title XVI on the basis of drug addiction or alcoholism. As of January 1, 1997, the Social Security Administration (SSA) terminated DA&A beneficiaries receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Disability Insurance (DI) on March 29, 1996, unless they successfully appealed the termination. SSA designed an evaluation study that was implemented through a task order contract with the Lewin Group and Westat between March 1997 and August 1998. The study focused on the DA&A beneficiaries on the rolls when the legislation took effect. The evaluation combined quantitative analysis with case studies.

Modeling Income in the Near Term (MINT)

The Office of Policy has developed a database for assessing the distributional impact of policy changes using the Survey of Income and Program Participation from the 1990-1993 panels matched to SSA administrative records. The database is called *Modeling Income in the Near Term*, or MINT. MINT projects the future demographic history and expected retirement income for persons born in 1931-1960. A contract to the Urban Institute statistically projected the retirement income sources of new retirees and the aged population of 2020. A contract to RAND statistically projected the expected date of death and future marital histories until death. The final reports from these two contracts document the extensive research forming the basis of MINT.

Project Network

SSA conducted a randomized experiment in case management for providing services to severely disabled beneficiaries of Disability Insurance and recipients of Supplemental Security Income. Abt Associates made the evaluation of this experiment. Three reports from the Abt study are available on the Web site. One report documents the net outcomes of the experiment; another report analyzes participation in the experiment; and a third report analyzes the waivers provided in the experiment.

Policy Evaluation of the Overall Effects of Welfare Reform on SSA Programs

The purpose of this study is to design options for evaluating the impacts of the 1996 Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act on SSA-administered programs. Evaluation options are developed for estimating the impact of the non-SSA reforms alone, and for estimating the total effect of all recent SSA and non-SSA reforms. The report, which was prepared by the Lewin Group, provides a literature review, a review of welfare reform evaluations, a summary of state site visits to five states, a statistical analysis of the pre-reform period for national and state SSI disability application trends, and a statistical analysis of data from the 1990-1993 Survey of Income and Program Participation matched to SSA administrative data on SSI. The study presents a series of options for evaluating the impact of welfare reform on SSA programs.

Evaluation of 1996 Welfare Reform for SSI Children

The 1996 Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act changed the eligibility criteria for children receiving Supplemental Security Income. RAND conducted two case studies, visiting about 45 cases in 5 states.